



Animal Care Services
4710 State Highway 151, San Antonio, TX 78227
210.207.4PET Fax 210.207-6673
www.sanantonio.gov/animalcare
www.saacs.net



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Contact:
Lisa Norwood
Public Information Officer
(210)207-6665/ (210)315-3130
lisa.norwood@sanantonio.gov

**Animal Care Services urges pet owners to vaccinate
their pets for rabies and avoid wildlife**
Recent rabies cases illustrate the need for caution and vigilance

The City of San Antonio's Animal Care Services (ACS) Department and the Metropolitan Health District are urging residents to avoid wildlife and ensure their pets are vaccinated for rabies. The warning comes after two recent rabies cases were confirmed, both involving bats in which there was human exposure. Both incidents involved young children handling bats found on their respective school campuses. In 2011, Metropolitan Health has confirmed 3 cases of rabies in Bexar County, with all those being bats.

Given the seriousness of the disease, ACS strongly urges pet owners ensure their pets are vaccinated for rabies as required by both City and State law as well limit their pet's contact with wildlife. Residents should avoid handling wildlife, and children should be reminded of the dangers of interacting with any animals they do not know, especially bats during this migration season.

Rabies is a potentially fatal viral disease that is spread by contact with infected saliva or neural tissue, primarily through a bite but in certain rare cases through non-bite exposures like abrasions or scratches. The virus infects the central nervous system eventually causing death in nearly all cases if not prevented with the rabies vaccine.

Animal Care Services regularly offers **\$15 rabies shots** at the shelter located at 4710

State Highway 151. Please call 207-4738 for daily availability or visit one of Animal Care Services **low cost vaccination clinics** held each week in conjunction with local veterinarians. Rabies shots and other vaccinations are available at the clinics held every **Monday** from **2pm to 4pm** and the **1st and 3rd Wednesday** of each month from **5pm to 7pm**. *All animal bites and human or pet exposure to potentially rabid animals must be reported to Animal Care Services.* The 24-hour Bite Emergency line is 207-6667. For more information on rabies, visit www.dshs.state.tx.us.